

LITERATURE. REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

THE TOWER. By William Howells. Philadelphia: Turner Brothers & Co. No. 508 Chestnut street, and Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger.

The title of any work, but especially of an historical work, ought to give some intelligent idea of the subject. Mr. Dixon's designation of his work on the Tower of London is certainly not well chosen, and it appears like a piece of affectation on the part of the author.

Mr. Dixon's work is a series of anecdotes and sketches of the Tower and the people who have inhabited it, strung together in rather a loose and inartistic manner. It is defective and disappointing as a carefully elaborated historical study, such as we had a right to expect; but the anecdotes and descriptions are graphic, and the book is one of great interest.

Standing on Tower Hill, looking down on the dark lines of wall—picking out keep and turret, bastion and ballium, chapel and belfry—the jewel-house, the armory, the mounts, the crenellations, the open leads—the Bay ward gate, the Belfry, the great hall, the whole edifice seems alive with story, the story of a nation's highest splendor, its deepest misery, and its darkest shame.

From the reign of Stephen down to that of Henry of Richmond, Cosin's tower (the great Norman keep, now called the White tower) was a main part of the royal palace; and for that large interval of time, the story of the White tower is in some sort that of our English society as well as of our English kings.

The Tower was divided into two main parts—an Inner Ward and an Outer Ward; the first part being bounded by the old wall, crowned by twelve mural towers; the second part being bounded by the wall which fringed the slopes leading down to the water.

The Outer Ward, which owed its plan and most of its execution to Henry the Third, lay between the battlements and the outer scarp of the ditch, with a protected passage into the Inner Ward.

The Inner Ward was the original fortress, which the defending ditch lay under the battlements, and which the king kept in the tower, the Constable's tower, the Brick tower, in which the Master of the Ordnance lived, the Great hall, quarters for the archers and bowmen, and, in later days, the kitchen.

The Outer Ward was the king's quarters. To the Inner Ward, commonly had no right of access, and they were rarely allowed to enjoy as a privilege, which they could not claim as a right. This Inner Ward was the King's castle, his palace, his garrison, his wardrobe, his treasury.

This right of entry was enforced on stated occasions with a certain observance which is hardly known to our modern times. Queen Isabella and Mortimer were not long apart. Every one is familiar with the tale of their guilty passion.

of their body into the Tower to ask leave for a deputation of citizens to see the king, and free access for all people to the courts of law. These same persons were to be that the guard, according to custom, would forbid his guard-keepers to close the gates or to keep watch over them, while the citizens were coming and going.

The object of these rates was to grant the right of access to the most important officer of the Court of King's Bench and the Court of Common Pleas.

Many a dark scene in the history of our public liberties and our private manners grows suddenly luminous when we bear these facts in mind; that the Tower consisted of two parts—an inner court and an outer court; that the Court of King's Bench was held in the royal quarters, the Court of Common Pleas in the outer court, and that the people had free access to the outer court, and only to the outer court.

The Hall tower, in which Henry the Third had built a chapel for his private use, being an outlier work, which stood on the bank of the river, on the rampart and Water Lane, could not be used as a prison for men of a dangerous class.

A feeble prince, like Henry the Sixth, who shrank from state and power, may have enjoyed a mild detention in the hall tower, but a man of the royal crown, like John, was softly kept; and this tower was in his day a part of the royal palace. Old traditions make this room his study; the scene of his pious meditations; and of his deliberate murder of his brother.

It is London in the reign of Bluff King Hal—the element of his life, his life. The river is alive with boats; the air is white with smoke; the sun overhead is burning with golden May. Thousands on thousands of spectators dot the banks; for to-day a barge is coming home to the King.

From the first barge lands the Lord Mayor; from the second trips the bride; from the rest stream out the picturesque city companies. Cannon roar, and bells ring out a welcome to the Queen; for this is a great day in the story of one lovely woman, but a great day in the story of English life. Now is the morning time of a new era; for on this bright May—

The King catches that fair young bride in his arms, kisses her, and bears her in, through the Bay ward tower.

The picture fades from view, and presently reappears. Is it the same? The Queen—the star—the barge—the crowd of men—all these leading down to the water, with the Constable's tower, the Constable's tower, the Constable's tower, the Constable's tower.

On these steps, too, beneath this Water-gate, Elizabeth, then a young fair girl, with gentle, feminine face and golden hair, was landed by her jealous sister's servants.

Edward the Second and his queen, Isabella the Fair, came to a sad, riotous court in the Tower, which was then a prison, by political quarrels, by religious feuds, by political intrigues. Here the princess known in story as Jeanna de la Tour was born.

Into the Outer Ward, the Commons had always claimed a right of entry, and something more than a right of entry, that is to say, free access, granted by possession of the outer gates and towers.

their stormy career, their tragic end; the most singular episode in the history of our royal race.

Shakespeare has been studied, essayed, and commented upon so much that it would take a lifetime of diligent reading to get through with all the theories, dissertations, expositions, and speculations that have been put forth for the enlightenment of the public.

The Marooners' Island, by F. R. Goulding. Published by Claxton, Remsen, & Haffelinger.

Desert island stories, from the days of De foe to Charles Reade and Dion Boucault, have never lacked for readers. There is a particular fascination in these tales which appeals in the strongest manner to the juvenile imagination, stirs the young blood, and inspires a desire to imitate the example of the fictitious heroes and heroines.

The Young Marooners," originally published a good many years ago, is one of the most interesting books of its class, and it was and is deservedly popular. The author, in his preface to the present work, states that he does not approve of sequels, but that so many and so urgent were the requests for a continuation of his former story, that he was allowed no option in the case.

From Turner Brothers & Co. and Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger we have received the first part of Anthony Trollope's new novel, "He Knew He Was Right," published by Harper & Brothers.

"Watson's Philadelphia Business Directory" for 1869 contains a classified list of merchants, tradesmen, and professions, arranged in alphabetical order.

The Architectural Review for March is, as usual, both practical and artistic, and it is interesting to the general reader as well as useful to the professional architect and builder.

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SHIPPING. CHARLESTON, S. C. The South and Southwest FAST FREIGHT LINE. EVERY THURSDAY.

The Steamship PROMETHEUS, Captain Gray, J. W. EVERMAN, Captain Vance, WILL FORM A REGULAR WEEKLY LINE. The steamship J. W. EVERMAN will sail on THURSDAY, February 25, at 4 P. M.

FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENS TOWN. The General Transatlantic Company's MAIL STEAMSHIP BELLEVILLE, N. Y. CITY OF NEW YORK, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 12 noon.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE. THE GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY'S MAIL STEAMSHIP BELLEVILLE, N. Y. CITY OF NEW YORK, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 12 noon.

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND AND NORFOLK STEAMSHIP LINE. THROUGH ROUTE TO THE SOUTH AND WEST.

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INSURANCE. DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY. Incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1855.

Office S. E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia. MARINE INSURANCE. On Goods by River, Canal, Lake and Land Carriage to all parts of the Union.

ASSETS OF THIS COMPANY, November 1, 1868. \$200,000 United States Five Per Cent. Loan, 10-40s..... \$208,500.00

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INSURANCE. STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE METROPOLITAN INSURANCE CO. On the First Day of January, 1869.

Capital Stock..... \$300,000.00. Amount of losses during the year, adjusted but not due..... 6,707.97.

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